

30th July 2015

Dear Valued Customer,

We appreciate the continuing need for reassurance regarding our Japanese imports since the earthquake and nuclear incident affecting northern Japan on March 11th, 2011. We are pleased to assure you that we maintain full confidence in the safety of our products. This is based on:

1) Compliance with EU legislation (Regulation EC284/2012 as amended)

- Radioactivity testing prior to export from Japan:

Pre-departure testing for caesium-134 and caesium-137 continues to be a requirement for products originating from 15 high-risk prefectures. The total maximum level stipulated for caesium (Cs-134 and Cs-137) is 100 Bq/kg for products ready for consumption (1).

- Container screening and random checks upon arrival in the EU:

In addition to the fact that all at-risk food products exported into the EU from Japan have to be tested prior to export, EU port authorities screen all containers upon arrival for surface contamination, to check it falls below the threshold level of 0.2 μ Sv/hr, advised by the European Commission (2) (3).

Moreover, since the products we import from Japan are cleared in the Netherlands, the Dutch authorities carry out random controls on food imports from Japan as mandated by Regulation EC322/2014. Findings above 5 Bq/kg are flagged.

ALL TESTING CARRIED OUT ON OUR PRODUCTS SO FAR HAVE SHOWN LEVELS BELOW DETECTION LIMITS OF 50 Bq/kg

2) Our own verification checks on receiving the goods

All the information we have received indicates that the radioactive risk of Japanese food imports is low. As an additional precaution we are contracting the services of a German laboratory specializing in radioactivity testing, utilizing a germanium gamma spectrometry system, to analyze products that are particularly at risk. These include: sea vegetables, teas, shiitake and ume products. We are now testing on an annual basis applying a detection limit of 5 Bq/kg. Certificates of analysis are available to our customers upon request.

ALL TESTING CARRIED OUT BY OUR CONTRACTED LABORATORY HAS SHOWN LEVELS BELOW DETECTION LIMITS OF 5 Bq/kg

3) Sourcing from suppliers who are committed to food safety, above and beyond legislative requirements

We are continuing to monitor the radioactivity levels in the product groups considered to be most at risk – sea vegetables, tea, shiitake, and ume products – even if they originate from areas well away from the nuclear reactor. Where food safety has been called into question, we have found alternative suppliers to enable continued supply of products that meet our high safety and quality standards.

Some producers of items not considered to be at risk have taken the initiative to conduct their own testing. We are very grateful for their cooperation and commitment to providing this extra assurance.

We hope the above addresses any concerns you may have. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best regards,



Derek Przybycien
Quality Assurance and Regulatory Affairs Manager

References:

- (1) http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:JOL_2014_095_R_0001_01&from=EN
- (2) http://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/documents/140411_info_msg.pdf
- (3) http://ec.europa.eu/transport/modes/maritime/studies/doc/2009_04_scanning_containers.pdf